

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
COLORADO STATE OFFICE  
2850 YOUNGFIELD STREET  
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO 80215-7093

June 1, 1998

In Reply Refer To:  
8100 (CO-931) P

Instruction Memorandum No. CO-98-037  
Expires: 9/30/98

To: All Field Offices

From: State Director, Colorado

Subject: Implementation of the National Programmatic Agreement in Colorado

On March 26, 1997, BLM, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council), and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers signed a programmatic agreement which, upon completion of several requirements, would streamline the compliance process for the National Historic Preservation Act. The agreement authorizes Field Office Managers to proceed without case-by-case oversight review from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Council, so they may approve undertakings much sooner than the standard process allows.

The agreement obligates BLM to completion of several steps before a BLM state can be certified. Chief among these requirements is the completion of a Protocol with the SHPO. The Colorado Protocol was completed with the signing on April 28, 1998, and certification was approved by the Director May 8, 1998, (attached).

Attached to this memorandum is a binder containing a copy of: (1) the National Programmatic Agreement, (2) the Colorado Protocol, (3) the BLM 8100 Interim Manual series, and (4) the Colorado Supplemental 8100 Manual Handbook. The 8160, Native American Coordination and Consultation Manual, was not revised during this process and is not included in the attached binder. If you need a copy of the 8160 manual, contact Jim Rhett. These documents now constitute the Colorado BLM direction in dealing with the SHPO, and compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. We recognize that the new direction may cause some confusion during the transition; so if you have questions, please contact Rich Fike, State Archaeologist and Deputy Preservation Officer, or Jim Rhett, Resource Advisor.

The Colorado Supplemental 8100 Manual Handbook, commonly called the "Colorado Handbook," is in interim guidance status. A number of unresolved guidance issues as well as opportunities for additional streamlining, may be dealt with in a revised edition of the document this year. Jim has a list of issues which will be pursued this summer. These include the timeframe for sending reports to SHPO, para-archaeology program guidance, inventory of private lands, and certification requirements. Please review the handbook after reading the other documents and provide any additional comments and recommendations to Jim Rhett. These recommendations will be addressed by the combined SHPO/BLM annual meeting in August 1998.

The purpose of the annual SHPO/BLM meeting provided for in the Protocol, is to coordinate activities and procedures between SHPO and BLM and to address opportunities/concerns arising from the National Programmatic Agreement and the Colorado Protocol. Program staff and managers are invited to participate in the annual meeting. Please submit agenda topics to

Jim Rhett by July 27, 1998. The first annual meeting is presently scheduled in Denver for the week of August 10, 1998. A more detailed schedule and agenda will be published in July.

We are entering a new era in cultural heritage management; one in which we and our partner, SHPO, can work in closer harmony spending less time in review and more time protecting and managing cultural resources.

Signed by  
Ann J. Morgan  
State Director

Authenticated by  
Don Snow  
EMS Operator

2 Attachments:

1- Certification Letter

2 - CHM Notebook (Notebook Distributed Under Separate Cover)